



- **Interaction between PPIs and clopidogrel**

A meta-analysis of 39 studies suggests that the controversial interaction between PPIs and clopidogrel seen in in-vitro studies has no clinical significance. Rather, patients on PPIs have higher burden of comorbidities and thus most likely have increased risk for adverse CV events.

However, the MHRA advice has not yet been updated, which advises prescribers not to co-prescribe esomeprazole or omeprazole with clopidogrel – lansoprazole is preferred.

<http://openheart.bmj.com/content/2/1/e000248.abstract>

- **Updated Advisory Committee on Malaria Prevention guidelines for UK travellers – 2015**

The Advisory Committee on Malaria Prevention (ACMP), an expert advisory committee of Public Health England (PHE) produces guidelines on malaria prevention for medical professionals and other travel medicine advisors based in the UK. These guidelines are updated annually or when there is a significant change in the distribution or behaviour of malaria, or the need to consider new advice on drugs and anti-insect measures

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461295/2015.09.16_ACMP_guidelines_FINAL.pdf

- **UK immunisation schedules**

A useful table summarising the UK immunisation schedules has been published by NHS England

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/462569/9406_PHE_2015_Complete_Immunisation_Schedule_A4_12b_web.pdf

- **Electronic Repeat Dispensing (RD) Guide**

GP practices and pharmacies are reminded that guidance on electronic repeat dispensing is available from NHS England

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/digitaltechnology/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2015/06/electronic-repeat-dispensing-guidance.pdf>

GP practices are encouraged to discuss with their locality Prescribing Adviser before implementing RD via EPS.

- **Trimethoprim and methotrexate interaction**

Prescribers are reminded that there is a potential interaction between methotrexate and trimethoprim. There is an increased risk of haematological toxicity when trimethoprim (also with co-trimoxazole) given with methotrexate and other medicines for rheumatoid arthritis including azathioprine, ciclosporin and mercaptopurine. An alternative antimicrobial such as nitrofurantoin should be chosen if treating a urinary tract infection in patients receiving these medicines

- **Yellow card scheme App**

A Yellow Card smartphone app has been launched for people to report problems with medicines.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/digital-evolution-for-ground-breaking-yellow-card-scheme>

- **Unlicensed medicine patient information leaflet**

If an unlicensed medicine is prescribed this should be explained to the patient and documented in the notes.

Examples include -

- ✓ A liquid "special" formulation specially prepared for patients with difficulty swallowing the licensed tablets.
- ✓ Using a medicine outside of the licence (SPC) - different indication, age group, dose etc.

The Northamptonshire Prescribing Management Group has approved a patient leaflet which GPs can use to help explain this. It can be found on Pathfinder at

<http://www.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/media/3362368/unlicensed-medicines-2015.pdf>

- **Substituting vaccine manufacturer's needles for other needles**

PHE has received reports that some immunisers are not using the needles supplied with vaccines and instead are using alternative brands of sharp safe needle devices, which on occasion have not fitted the vaccine syringe properly. Immunisers should be aware that if a vaccine manufacturer supplies needles with their product the expectation is that those needles will be used to administer the vaccine.

This edition is also available on PathfinderRF via the following link <http://www.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene>
and on the Nene CCG and Corby CCG websites

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